

2025 National Lead and Healthy Housing Conference

Monday, August 4 to Wednesday, August 6, 2025

Westin Kansas City at Crown Center, Kansas City, MO

<https://healthyhousingconferences.com/2025-national-schedule>

Schedule and Session Descriptions

Monday, August 4, 2025

7:30 a.m. On Site Registration

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Three Concurrent Pre-Conference Workshops

- *Workshop #1 on Lead and Healthy Homes' Myths, Mysteries and Mistakes* (In Century Ballroom Section A)

Whether new to healthy homes or an old-timer, it is important to sort out myths and mistakes from the facts and the law. For instance, if it is not lead-based paint, then it is lead-free (Myth). How black mold and mushrooms are going to save the world (Mysteries). You also figure out what to do when “best practices” conflict (Mistakes). This interactive audience experience will help give you the information and the tools you need.

- [Mike Sharp](#) of Janus Corporation (LEHA Board) – [PDF](#)
- *Workshop #2 on Lead Detection and EPA's New Dust-Lead Standard* (In Century Ballroom Section B)

On Tuesday at 3:30 in the Lead Track, the presenter will explain the impact of EPA's October changes to its [dust-lead standards](#) and [standards for labs](#) that reframe what dust-lead hazards mean and shift the focus to action levels. This workshop is for those who want to dig deeper into the hazard standards (including soil and deteriorated paint), how they are measured, what they mean, how they are implemented, and what is on the horizon. The presenters will also talk through the strengths and limitations of colorimetric kits to detect lead. [Combined PDF of presentation](#)

 - [Tom Neltner](#) of Unleaded Kids (LEHA Board)
 - [Howard Varner](#) of EHS Labs (LEHA Board)
 - [Greg Krueger](#) of LEW Environmental Services (LEHA Board)
- *Workshop #3: Beyond HGGMS, Benchmarks and eLOCCS: Strategies for HUD Grant Success* (In Century Ballroom Section C)

This interactive presentation guides grantees through the key components of running a successful HUD-funded Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes program. It covers essential topics including financial compliance, community outreach, workforce development, and long-term sustainability. The goal is to help both new and experienced grantees strengthen performance, avoid pitfalls, and maximize your program's impact.

[Combined PDF of presentation](#)

- [Kate Kirkwood](#) of Lead-Edu and Program Manager for HUD Grantee (LEHA Board)
 - [Michelle Miller](#) Medeiros, formerly of Department of Housing and Urban Development
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12:15 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Opening General Session (In Century Ballroom Section C)

12:15 Welcoming Remarks

- *Moderator:* [Kathy Harris](#) of EHS Labs (LEHA Board)
- *Welcome:* [Mayor Quinton Lucas](#) of Kansas City, Missouri

12:50 Keynote: *New Landscapes and Horizons on Healthy Housing / Importance of Whole Home Approach*

The changing federal landscape means it is increasingly important for state and local governments and communities to grapple with new ways to fund and support programs. Through case studies and community stories, Ms. Norton will illuminate the value of a whole-house approach to comprehensively improve housing quality and resident health outcomes, increase energy efficiency, and ensure that communities with the highest needs are able to fully access programs and services to improve health, opportunity and affordability. She will also show how the upstream approach of an align, braid, and coordinate model, and new use of technology will meet the moment to help leverage local dollars to attract philanthropic, climate and health care funds from the private sector to ensure programmatic success. Most importantly, she will provide a call to action to ensure that the mission continues, programs strengthen in this moment, and no one is left behind.

- [Ruth Ann Norton](#), President/CEO, of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

1:50 Latest on Federal Changes and Implications for States

The new Administration has undertaken a dramatic restructuring and tremendous downsizing effort of the federal government that is likely to fundamentally alter lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes efforts across the country. Congress will be weighing in as it considers FY2026 appropriations bills in July. Panelists will share their insights on the federal situation and their perspectives on the potential impacts on state lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes efforts.

- *Moderator:* [Tom Neltner](#) of Unleaded Kids (LEHA Board)
- [Amanda Reddy](#) of National Center for Healthy Housing
- [Michael McKnight](#) of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- [LaTricea Adams](#) of Young, Gifted and Green
- [John Belt](#) of Ohio Department of Health
- [Teresa Wortmann](#) of Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services
- [Michelle Miller](#) Medeiros, formerly of Department of Housing and Urban Development

2:50 Break – Exhibit Hall Open

3:20 Local Program Perspectives on Federal Changes

Having gotten the latest information on federal changes and hearing about the potential implications for states, panelists will discuss the potential implications for local programs whether government or NGO.

- Moderator: [Kate Kirkwood](#) of Lead-Edu (LEHA Board)
- [Amy Roberts](#) of City of Kansas City, Missouri Health Department
- [Larry Brooks](#), formerly of Alameda County Healthy Homes Department (LEHA Board)
- [Laura Brion](#) of Childhood Lead Action Project in Rhode Island
- [Rebecca Jim](#) of L.E.A.D. Agency
- [Robin Brown](#) of Collective Citizens Organized Against Lead (CCOAL)

4:20 *Private Sector Perspectives on Federal Changes*

Having gotten the latest information on federal changes and hearing about the potential implications for states and local programs, panelists will discuss the potential implications for the private sector.

- Moderator: [Howard Varner](#) of EHS Labs (LEHA Board)
- [Pete Roque](#) of 4Leaf
- [Greg Krueger](#) of LEW Environmental Services (LEHA Board)
- [Mike Sharp](#) of Janus Corporation (LEHA Board)

5:00 *Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards*

The Lead and Environmental Hazards Association (LEHA) will present lifetime achievement awards to people who have worked for decades to make homes healthier and protect children from lead poisoning.

- [Kate Kirkwood](#) of Lead-Edu and Chair of LEHA Board

5:30 *Adjourn*

5:30 p.m. – Networking Reception and Exhibit Viewing

Tuesday, August 5, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. – Coffee, Compliance & Capacity: Bring your challenges! (In Century Ballroom Section B)

This Session provides an opportunity to talk with colleagues about smart spending and compelling outcomes. Get tips from successful grantees and share some of your own.

- Facilitator: [Kate Kirkwood](#) of Lead-Edu and Program Manager for HUD Grantee (LEHA Board)
- [Michelle Miller](#) Medeiros, formerly of Department of Housing and Urban Development

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. –

Healthy Housing Track (In Century Ballroom Section B)

Track Moderator: [Mike Sharp](#) of Janus Corp (LEHA Board)

8:30 *Welcome and Introductions*

8:45 *State Coalitions – Models for Action in NJ, OH, PA, and RI*

State coalitions with diverse membership and organizational support can be critical vehicles to advance policies, draw attention to issues, and lift-up successes.

Leaders of coalitions in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Rhode Island will briefly share their stories and provide models for action in your state.

- [Laura Brion](#) of Childhood Lead Action Project in Rhode Island – [PDF](#)
- [Heather Sorge](#) of Lead-Free New Jersey – [PDF](#)
- [Fred Strahorn](#) of Ohio Healthy Homes Network – [PDF](#)
- [Janet Panning](#) of Lead-Free Promise Project in Pennsylvania – [PDF](#)

9:45 *Translating Housing Data into Health Data*

Effective community programs must efficiently identify homes with health and safety hazards, fix the problems, and evaluate impact. To help jumpstart new programs, the presenters will explain their exterior housing-based Lead Risk Index (LRI). The LRI is a tool to assess lead hazards in a non-invasive, quick, low-cost manner without entering the house. They will also explain their initiative to develop a similar index focused on reducing pediatric asthma and measuring the effectiveness of lead-safe housing interventions.

- [Neal Wilson](#) of Center for Economic Information at University of Missouri at Kansas City – [PDF](#)
- [Matthew Robinson](#) of Center for Economic Information at University of Missouri at Kansas City

10:15 *Break – Exhibit Hall Open:*

10:45 *Environmental Measurement for Healthy Home Assessments – What You Need to Know*

A site walk-through is fundamental to performing high quality evaluations of housing hazards and risks. Often environmental measurements and samples are useful to interpreting conditions. This session will summarize essential diagnostic tests every healthy homes assessor should be familiar with, review several additional measurement and sampling tests that an assessor might consider, and summarize research associated with some of these measurements.

- [Kevin Kennedy](#) of Healthy Indoors Training and Consulting – [PDF](#)

11:30 *Novel Means of Radon Education from North Dakota*

North Dakota, the state with the highest residential radon in the US, has historically had no laws requiring radon testing or disclosure. This session describes some novel means to promote radon home testing in North Dakota that should be relevant to many states, including radon tester lending libraries, cell phone apps for radon, and free radon test kits available to callers to the state tobacco quitline.

- [Gary G. Schwartz](#) of University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences – [PDF](#)

12:00 *Adjourn*

Lead Poisoning Prevention Track (In Century Ballroom Section C)

Moderator: [Kate Kirkwood](#) of Lead-Edu (LEHA Board)

8:30 *Welcome and Introductions*

8:45 *Partnerships, Persistence and Progress in Buffalo*

Over 15 years ago, the County Health Department, City government, non-profits and the medical community came together, determined to overcome their silos to reduce childhood lead poisoning. After many meetings, a formal study, and a lawsuit, a new cooperative era for children's health has begun in Buffalo. [Combined PDF of presentation.](#)

- [Thomas Muscarella](#) of Erie County Health Department
- [Cara Matteliano](#) of Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo
- [Sarah Wooton](#) of Partnership for the Public Good

9:30 *Lessons from New York, New Jersey, and Rhode Island on Proactive Rental Inspections and Rental Registries*

Three states have adopted or expanded their proactive rental inspection requirements for lead hazards in the past several years. [Rhode Island](#) expanded its existing requirements and added an [interactive map](#) to its registry. [New Jersey](#) required inspections with dust wipe clearance in municipalities with more than 3% elevated blood lead levels no later than July 2024. [New York's](#) requirements and a state-wide rental registry go into effect in October 2025 for 25 communities of concern. The state is working to finalize rules implementing the law. In this session, experts on the requirements for each of the three states will explain the program and lessons learned.

- [DeeAnn Guo](#) of Childhood Lead Action Project (CLAP) in Rhode Island – [PDF](#)
- [Ben Haygood](#) of Isles in New Jersey – [PDF](#)
- [Thomas Muscarella](#) of Erie County Health Department in New York – [PDF](#)

10:30 *Break – Exhibit Hall Open:*

11:00 *Using AI to Extract Lead Hazard Data for Public Mapping*

For decades, health departments, housing agencies, and others have been conducting environmental investigations and risk assessments for lead-based paint hazards. All too often, that information is on PDFs or hard copy reports that can be technical and difficult to understand. Recognizing the need for transparency and accessibility, Marion County Public Health Department in Indianapolis, Indiana use AI tools to extract the information and make it available in [online maps](#) as part of its [Mission Unleaded website](#). The presenter will share how they did it and how you can too.

- [Kristen Milbrath](#) of Marion County Public Health Department – [PDF](#)

11:30 *Lead Screening Kits and Indiana Pilot*

In this era of dwindling resources, health departments and other organizations must make choices about how best to use their lead prevention resources. The University of Notre Dame Lead Innovation Team (ND LIT) has partnered with Women, Infant and Children (WIC) to screen their clients' households for lead hazards. Building on

work described in [2020](#) and [2024 studies](#), ND LIT developed a low-cost kit to help families screen their homes for lead hazards before a child is exposed or lead poisoned. Dr. Beidinger will summarize prior and ongoing work.

- [Heidi Beidinger](#) of Notre Dame – [PDF](#)

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Buffet Lunch Provided

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. – Two Concurrent Educational Tracks continues

Healthy Homes Track (In Century Ballroom Section B)

Track Moderator: [Mike Sharp](#) of Janus Corp (LEHA Board)

1:30 ***Contracting for Healthy Homes Education through Code Enforcement***

Enforcing property maintenance codes is key to making homes safe and healthy, especially for renters. Successful code enforcement requires a property owner and resident who both know how important it is and what their responsibilities are to comply. It also needs an inspector who knows the code, how to evaluate housing conditions, and can communicate well. The presenters in this session will explain the role communities have used in contracting for code enforcement complemented by effective consumer education.

- [Larry Brooks](#), formerly of Alameda County Healthy Homes Department (LEHA Board) – [PDF](#)
- [Pete Roque](#) of 4Leaf – [PDF](#)

2:15 ***Comparison of Kitchen and Bath Exhaust Ventilation on Indoor Air Quality***

Emissions from gas stoves and other combustion sources are associated with large adverse health effects. This session will summarize research by the National Center for Healthy Homes and the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission showing that continuous exhaust ventilation using kitchen range hoods improved indoor air quality better than continuous exhaust ventilation in bathrooms and that exhaust ventilation compared to no exhaust had an even greater beneficial effect.

- [Dave Jacobs](#) of National Center for Healthy Housing (LEHA Board) – [PDF](#)

2:45 ***Break – Exhibit Hall Open:***

3:15 ***Fall Prevention: Case Studies of Healthy Homes Success***

According to the CDC, fourteen million Americans ages 65 and older fall each year, resulting in over 38,000 deaths annually. In this session, the presenter will explain how fall prevention interventions are an important part of the healthy homes program, especially those focused on the older adults. He will cover the risk factors, types of injury hazards, and benefits of fall prevention interventions, and innovative ways in which these programs can be funded, highlighting case studies of successful fall prevention programs that are currently operating around the country.

- [Kevin Chan](#) of Green and Healthy Homes Initiative – [PDF](#)

3:45 *Engaging Parents and Communities*

A successful healthy homes program engages parents, and communities that will be served by supporting outreach, and flagging problems before they become serious. While engagement can be challenging, it is essential for creating lasting change. A community-based organization can be an important mechanism to achieve this goal. The presenter will share her experiences running a CBO in Grand Rapids, Michigan, that can help programs move beyond outreach toward shared ownership, ensuring families are not just involved, but empowered to lead solutions rooted in their own communities.

- [Jameela Maun](#) of Healthy Homes Coalition of Western Michigan – [PDF](#)

4:15 *Diversifying Funding Streams*

Given the current funding environment, with traditional resources shifting, it's important to diversify strategies to ensure the stability and longevity of healthy housing programs and practices. This session will provide an overview of funding available to local governments and their community partners—from municipal bonds to social impact initiatives, blending and braiding federal and state funds, and more. Presenters will also examine asset mapping as a tool for identifying opportunities and gaps and highlight examples from cities and towns across the US. [Combined PDF of presentation.](#)

- Moderator: [Teresa Wortmann](#) of Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services
- [Brandon Boccher](#) of National League of Cities
- [Becky O'Meara](#) of National League of Cities

5:00 *Healthcare Funding/Engagement for Healthier Homes*

The healthcare sector has emerged as an important partner for healthy housing programs, including providing direct investments to support lead poisoning prevention and healthy housing efforts. The panelists will share lessons learned from active healthcare-healthy homes projects, including how the partnerships began and matured and how other healthy homes programs can develop similar partnerships in their communities. The panel will include representatives from hospitals, health plans, and community health centers.

- Moderator: [Michael McKnight](#) of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative – [PDF](#)
- [Alix Fellman](#) of Trenton Health – [PDF](#)
- [Celisia Rouson-Smith](#) of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative – [PDF](#)
- [Michael McKnight](#) of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative – [PDF](#)

5:45 *Adjourn*

Lead Poisoning Prevention Track (In Century Ballroom Section C)

Track Moderator: [Kate Kirkwood](#) of Lead-Edu (LEHA Board)

1:30 *Calculating Societal Benefits of Reducing Lead Exposure*

Policymakers must pick and choose from an array of important priorities in which to invest their time, energy, and funding. While framing the expected health benefits from reducing lead exposure in terms of dollars can appear crass, it is an important tool to help compare priorities. And it is less abstract than health endpoints such as blood lead level, IQ points lost, or risk of death from cardiovascular disease. Fortunately, EPA has provided important tools to quantify the societal benefits of reducing lead exposure. Tom Neltner will explain how to use those tools to help evaluate your work and persuade others to support it.

- [Tom Neltner](#) of Unleaded Kids (LEHA Board) – [PDF](#)

2:15 *Lead in Drinking Water: LCRI, LSLs, Schools and Child Care*

In 2024, EPA finalized improvements to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) requiring full lead service line replacement, lowering the lead action level, and improving lead testing methods. In October that same year, utilities published inventories of service lines and their material types and will be required to update these inventories annually. The presenters will explain the impact of these changes, how schools and child cares will be affected, and the status of legal challenges to the LCR improvements.

- [Roya Alkafaji](#) of Environmental Defense Fund – [PDF](#)
- [Deandrah Cameron](#) of Lead-Free New Jersey and New Jersey Future – [PDF](#)

3:00 *Break – Exhibit Hall Open:*

3:30 *EPA's Dust-Lead Standards and State/HUD Implementation*

Last Fall, EPA revised its [dust-lead standards](#) and [standards for labs](#). The changes have created some confusion among lead-based paint risk assessors when they describe lab results that show reportable levels and what recommendations to make. There has also been confusion among states, HUD-grantees, and managers of housing covered by HUD's Lead-Safe Housing Rule (LSHR). This session will explain the new rule, review implications for programs, and give suggestions to manage the transition.

- [Tom Neltner](#) of Unleaded Kids (LEHA Board) – [PDF](#)

4:00 *Pregnancy, Lead and Mercury: Protecting Our Future*

Lead and mercury exposure during pregnancy can cause serious complications in pregnant people (e.g., preeclampsia, embolisms, miscarriage, etc.) while also harming infant development (e.g., lower IQs, organ malformation, behavior issues, etc.). Lead poisoning prevention programs focus on testing children at their 12- and 24-month pediatrician visits and there is no routine mercury poisoning testing in children. This approach results in many children undergoing up to 21 months of development while being harmed by lead due to the lack of earlier screening and ongoing harm from mercury. The presenters will explain the results of biomonitoring for lead and mercury in pregnant people and newborns at Newark's University Hospital and describe several case studies where interventions were implemented.

They will also discuss options and potential benefits of expanding testing for pregnant people and newborns.

- [Elyse Pivnick](#) of Isles (Virtual) – [PDF](#)
- [Eric Bind](#) of New Jersey Health Department and Newark Hospital – [PDF](#)

4:45 *Lead in Food: Baby Food, Cookware, and Vitamins*

The cinnamon applesauce [debacle](#) in late 2023 brought renewed attention to the long simmering issue of lead contamination in baby food and spices. In addition, a 2023 [California law](#) on lead, arsenic, cadmium and mercury in baby food with a similar law being considered for prenatal vitamins. And in 2024, [Washington State](#) passed a law limiting lead in metal cookware. The presenters will summarize the latest efforts to reduce lead exposure from food.

- [Katie Fellows](#) of Public Health – Seattle & King County, Hazardous Waste Management Program (Virtual) – [PDF](#)
- [Mariah Walters Orose](#) of Unleaded Kids – [Combined with Ronholm](#)
- [Brian Ronholm](#) of Consumer Reports

5:30 *Adjourn*

Wednesday, August 6, 2025

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. – Closing General Session (In Century Ballroom Section C)

8:00 *Session Overview*

- Moderator: [Kathy Harris](#) of EHS Labs (LEHA Board)

8:15 *Finishing the Job on Lead*

The sea change taking place at the federal level poses a potential threat to progress in our collective goal to end the toxic legacy of lead. It is a time to unify and unite in a call to action to ensure our nation does not move backwards on this critical effort to ensure every child can grow up healthy and thrive. Ms. Norton will raise opportunities to work with new sectors and partners to ensure the march to zero continues and highlight potential opportunities that may still exist at the federal level including HUD, EPA and of course the CDC, while programs look to generate programmatic income from social impact efforts and new funders coming over the horizon. Most importantly, she will explain the need for constant vigilance and how to use critical data, broad media outlets and old-fashioned hard work to gain new champions and to make the case at every level in every community.

- [Ruth Ann Norton](#), President/CEO, of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative – [PDF](#)

8:50 *Opinion of this mischievous Effect from Lead*

Pediatricians are at the forefront of diagnosing and managing children with elevated blood lead levels. Given that no safe level of lead has been identified, the primary prevention of lead exposure is imperative. This session will discuss how pediatricians can work with local and state governments with a focus on the primary and secondary prevention of childhood lead exposures.

- [Jennifer Lowry Sample](#) of Pediattox – *Contact presenter*

9:25 *PEHSUs: Partnership and Perspectives*

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units ([PEHSUs](#)) are a national network of experts created in 1998 supported by CDC/ATSDR and EPA that work collaboratively to improve health systems to make communities safer for children and families by providing community education and outreach, training for health professionals, and guidance and referrals. The presenter will describe how to access the network, how to make use of their expertise, and provide insight regarding how the network may shape environmental health programs in the future.

- [Elizabeth Friedman](#) of Children's Mercy Kansas City and Region 7 PEHSU – [PDF](#)

10:00 *Shaping and Supporting Healthy Homes*

This session highlights how professionals with lead and healthy homes experience have used advocacy efforts, partnerships, research, education and collaboration to find their voice within the healthy homes and lead poisoning prevention communities.

- [Kate Kirkwood](#) of Lead-Edu (LEHA Board)
- [Kathy Harris](#) of EHS Labs (LEHA Board)
- [Neal Freuden](#) of EnviroPlan (LEHA Board)

10:30 *Finding the Path Forward and Taking Action, hosted by National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition*

This session will offer participants an opportunity to reflect on takeaways from the conference about impacts of federal policy actions on states and localities and identify actions they want to take that fit into a larger collective vision for action. Presenters will share how the NSHHC will be engaging on these issues and how coalition members can get involved over the coming weeks and months. [Combined PDF of presentation.](#)

- [Sarah Goodwin](#) of National Center for Healthy Housing (LEHA Board)
- [Michael McKnight](#) of Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

12:00 *Adjourn*
